

Support for the amendments

The amendments to the claims are fully supported in the claims as filed, and thus the new claims do not constitute new matter.

Election

The applicants hereby elect the invention of group I, claims 1-21 for continued prosecution in the case. This election is made with traverse, as non-elected claim 22 is dependent on claim 1, and thus the searches required for its analysis overlaps with that of the invention of group I.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

The patent office rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Schwartz or Bingham. The applicants traverse this rejection, but have nevertheless amended claim 1 to introduce the limitation of claim 3, which has been acknowledged as patentable by the patent office. Thus, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 103(a)


The patent office rejected claims 2 and 16 as being obvious over Schwartz or Bingham. The applicants traverse this rejection, but have nevertheless amended claims 1 and 16 to introduce the limitation of claims 3 and 18, which have been acknowledged as patentable by the patent office. Thus, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone or personal interview would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (312) 913-2106.

Respectfully submitted,
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

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David Harper
Registration No. 42,636